

Claims 1-12 are presently pending in this application and stand rejected. By this Amendment, the specification has been amended and claim 1 has been amended.

More specifically, the specification has been amended to update and correct the cross-reference to related applications. Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the cartridge is connected to the pressurized air conditioning or refrigeration system via specific fluidly coupling means. Specific support for the fluidly coupling means can be found, for example, on page 18, line 14 to page 19, line 9; and in Figures 1 and 6-11.

Thus, no new matter has been added by any of these amendments.

***Rejections Under 35 USC § 103(a)***

On page 2, in numbered paragraph 2, of the Official Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1, 2, 5 and 7-12 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bradley et al. (U.S. Patent 4,467,620) in view of Negley (U.S. Patent 1,672,421).

On page 3, in numbered paragraph 3, the Examiner rejects claims 3 and 4 under 35 USC 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Bradley et al. (U.S. Patent 4,467,620) in view of Negley (U.S. Patent 1,672,421) and Brass (U.S. Patent 5,673,722).

Also on page 3, in numbered paragraph 4, the Examiner rejects claim 6 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bradley et al. (U.S. Patent 4,467,620) in view of Negley (U.S. Patent 1,672,421) and Summons et al (U.S. Patent 4,948,016).

On pages 3-4, in numbered paragraph 5, the Examiner rejects claims 1, 2, 5 and 7-12 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bradley et al. (U.S. Patent 4,467,620) in view of Johenning (U.S. Patent 5,127,118).

On page 4, in numbered paragraph 6, the Examiner rejects claims 3 and 4 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bradley et al. (U.S. Patent 4,467,620) in view of Johenning (U.S. Patent 5,127,118) and Brass (U.S. Patent 5,673,722).

On pages 4-5, in numbered paragraph 7, the Examiner rejects claim 6 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bradley et al. (U.S. Patent 4,467,620) in view of Johenning (U.S. Patent 5,127,118) and Summons et al (U.S. Patent 4,948,016).

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On page 5, in numbered paragraph 8, the Examiner rejects claims 1, 2, 5 and 7-12 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bradley et al. (U.S. Patent 4,467,620) in view of O'Hern, Jr. (U.S. Patent 4,338,793).

On page 6, in numbered paragraph 9, the Examiner rejects claims 3 and 4 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bradley et al. (U.S. Patent 4,467,620) in view of O'Hern, Jr. (U.S. Patent 4,338,793) and Brass (U.S. Patent (5,673,722)).

Also on page 6, in numbered paragraph 10, of the Official Action, the Examiner rejects claim 6 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bradley et al. (U.S. Patent 4,467,620) in view of O'Hern, Jr. (U.S. Patent 4,338,793) and Summons et al (U.S. Patent 4,948,016).

On page 7, in numbered paragraph 11, the Examiner rejects claims 1-5 and 7-12 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Trigiani (U.S. Patent 5,826,636) in view of Negley (U.S. Patent 1,672,421).

On pages 7-8, in numbered paragraph 12, the Examiner rejects claim 6 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Trigiani (U.S. Patent 5,826,636) in view of Negley

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(U.S. Patent 1,672,421) and Summons et al (U.S. Patent 4,948,016).

On page 8, in numbered paragraph 13, the Examiner rejects claims 1-5 and 7-12 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Trigiani (U.S. Patent 5,826,636) in view of Johenning (U.S. Patent 5,127,118).

On pages 8-9, in numbered paragraph 14, the Examiner rejects claim 6 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Trigiani (U.S. Patent 5,826,636) in view of Summons et al (U.S. Patent 4,948,016).

On page 9, in numbered paragraph 15, the Examiner rejects claims 1-5 and 7-12 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Trigiani (U.S. Patent 5,826,636) in view of O'Hern, Jr. (U.S. Patent 4,338,793).

On page 10, in numbered paragraph 16, the Examiner rejects claim 6 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Trigiani (U.S. Patent 5,826,636) in view of O'Hern, Jr. (U.S. Patent 4,338,793) and Summons et al (U.S. Patent 4,948,016).

In each of these rejections, it is the position of the Examiner that the claims are obvious over the combination of the teachings of the cited references.

In response, Applicant has amended the specification and has amended claim 1. The specification has been amended to update and correct the cross-reference to related applications. In view of the amendment to the specification, it is respectfully submitted that Trigiani (U.S. Patent 5,826,636) is not prior art.

Claim 1 has been amended to specifically recite a cartridge for connecting to a pressurized air conditioning or refrigeration system via specific fluidly coupling means, i.e., coupling means having dual valves for preventing any material from back flushing into and contaminating the fluid in the cartridge. The specific fluidly coupling means correspond to lines 17-31 of claim 1 of parent U.S. Patent 6,050,310 and lines 19-36 of claim 41 of parent U.S. Patent Application 09/535,368.

It is respectfully submitted that Bradley et al. (U.S. Patent 4,467,620), Negley (U.S. Patent 1,672,421), Brass (U.S. Patent 5,673,722), Summons et al. (U.S. Patent 4,948,016), Jochenning (U.S. Patent 5,127,118) and O'Hern, Jr. (U.S. Patent 4,338,793) neither disclose nor suggest a cartridge for connecting to a pressurized air conditioning

or refrigeration system via the specific fluidly coupling means of amended claim 1.

In the Interview Summary of August 9, 1999, in parent application 09/003,021, now U.S. Patent 6,050,310, the

Examiner stated:

It was agreed that having dual valves on the coupling means for preventing contamination in a device capable of being used to fill a refrigeration system was not taught in the prior art grease guns.

Moreover, no combination of the teachings of the cited references discloses or suggests a cartridge for connecting to a connector assembly having dual valves for preventing any material from back flushing into and contaminating the fluid in the cartridge.

In view of the amendment to the specification and claim 1 and the above-given explanation, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is not obvious over the combination of the teachings of the cited references. Claims 2-12 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1. It is, therefore, respectfully submitted that these rejections be withdrawn and that claims 1-12 be allowed.

All rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is

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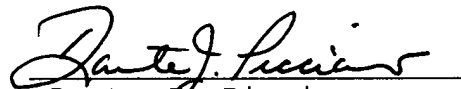
condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should any matters remain in this application which might be resolved by interview, the Examiners is requested to telephone the undersigned at 570-386-5744.

Respectfully submitted,

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